

U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Office of the General Counsel

Washington, D.C. 20535

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June 17, 2002 PECEIVED

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DEFICE OF THE SECRETARY

By Hand Delivery

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas, Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, S.W. Room TW-B204 Washington, D.C. 20554

Re:

Petition to Defer of U.S. Department of Justice and Federal Bureau of Investigation, IB Docket No. 02-111: In re Application of Bell Atlantic New Zealand Holdings, Inc., Transferor, and Pacific Telecom Inc., Transferee, For Consent to Transfer Control of Micronesian Telecommunications Corporation and its Wholly-Owned Subsidiary GTE Pacifica Inc.

Dear Ms. Salas:

Transmitted herewith, on behalf of the Department of Justice ("DoJ") and the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), are an original and four copies of a "Petition to Defer" in the above-referenced matter. Please accept this Petition and be advised that at this time there are outstanding national security, law enforcement, and public safety concerns; and, accordingly, we request that the Commission defer action on the licenses and authorizations subject to the foregoing applications until resolution of these concerns can be attempted.

Sincerely,

Patrick W. Kelley

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Enclosures

cc:

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Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20554



PERSON COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

<u> </u>	- THE SECRETARY
In re))
Application of))
BELL ATLANTIC NEW ZEALAND))
HOLDINGS, INC.,	,)
Transferor,)
and))) IB Docket Number 02-111
PACIFIC TELECOM INC.)
Transferee,)
For Consent to Transfer Control of))
Micronesian Telecommunications Corporation)
and its Wholly-owned Subsidiary)
GTE Pacifica Inc.)
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To: The Commission

PETITION TO DEFER OF U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

The Department of Justice ("DOJ") and the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), by their undersigned attorneys, respectfully request that the Federal Communications Commission ("Commission") defer action on the above-captioned applications pending attempted resolution of potential national security, law enforcement, and public safety issues.

In the captioned docket, Bell Atlantic New Zealand Holdings, Inc. ("BANZHI") and Pacific Telecom Inc. ("PTI") (together with BANZHI, the "Applicants") filed applications under Sections 214 and 310(d) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (the "Act"), for authority for BANZHI to transfer to PTI certain licenses and authorizations held by BANZHI's wholly owned subsidiary, Micronesian Telecommunications Corporation ("MTC"), and MTC's wholly owned subsidiary, GTE Pacifica Inc. ("GTE Pacifica"). These licenses and authorizations include a cellular radiotelephone license, common carrier and non-common carrier earth station licenses, a cable landing license, two international Section 214 authorizations held by GTE Pacifica, and blanket domestic Section 214 authorizations held by GTE Pacifica and MTC. PTI also petitions the Commission to issue a declaratory ruling that the indirect foreign ownership of GTE Pacifica that would result from PTI's proposed acquisition (ultimately, up to 87.1 percent) is consistent with the public interest pursuant to Section 310(d) of the Act.

The applications in the instant matter indicate that PTI has three shareholders. The first is Prospector Investment Holdings, Inc. ("Prospector") which is incorporated in the Cayman Islands, British West Indies. Prospector holds 50% of the equity in PTI. The second is THC Communications Corp. ("THC") which is incorporated in the CNMI. THC holds 30% of the equity in PTI. The third is Missouri Holdings Corp. ("Missouri Holdings") which is incorporated in the CNMI. Missouri Holdings hold 20% of the equity in PTI. The Applicants represent that the ultimate foreign ownership of PTI is currently 72.1%, and they further request Commission

approval to increase it by an additional 15% through equity ownership by entities or individuals from WTO Member countries, for a total of up to 87.1% foreign ownership.¹

As the DOJ and the FBI understand it, the licenses and authorizations at issue effectively apply to all of the telecommunications services offered in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), so that, collectively, such service facilities constitute a monopoly of landline local exchange and interexchange facilities, satellite earth station facilities, and wireless service facilities, and include a submarine cable facility and Internet facilities as well.

Given the breadth of control over all telecommunications services in the CNMI noted above, the DOJ and the FBI believe that the proposed transaction has the potential for impairing the ability of authorized governmental agencies of the United States to satisfy their obligations to preserve the national security, enforce the laws, and protect the public safety.

In order to resolve potential national security, law enforcement, and public safety concerns, the DOJ and the FBI request that the Commission defer action on the licenses and authorizations subject to the foregoing applications until resolution of these concerns can be attempted. The DOJ and the FBI have communicated with representatives of the Applicants and are reviewing the proposed transaction.

¹ At this point, it is our understanding that 100% of the equity in Prospector is held by Richard C. Delgado and Jose Ricardo Delgado, citizens of the Philippines. We also understand that 2.1% of the ownership in THC (Tan Holding Corporation) is foreign-based (with equity holders in Hong Kong, the Philippines, and the United Kingdom). Finally, we understand that 100% of the equity in Missouri Holdings is held by Michael Kai Leung, a citizen of Canada.

Wherefore, in view of the foregoing, the DOJ and the FBI respectfully request that the Commission defer action with respect to the captioned applications pending resolution of the national security, law enforcement, and public safety concerns noted herein.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick W. Kelley

Deputy General Counsel

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Dated: June 17, 2002

Certificate of Service

I, Myla R. Saldivar-Trotter, Federal Bureau of Investigation, hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing Petiton to Defer served this 17th day of June, 2002 via hand delivery (indicated by *) or by mail to the following parties:

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